Ban on private blood banks

*72. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ban private blood bank throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date from which the proposed ban is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No Sir. The position is that the National Blood Policy, 2002 stipulates that "fresh licenses to stand-alone blood banks in the private sector shall not be granted. Renewal of such blood banks shall be subjected to thorough scrutiny and shall not be renewed in case of non-compliance of any condition of license".

In pursuance of this stipulation, we would need to amend the relevant provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, after which fresh licenses would not be granted to stand-alone blood banks in the private sector.

This stipulation does not apply to the existing blood banks holding valid licenses and complying with the conditions of license.

Management of medical waste

73. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a Parliamentary Committee has pointed out, in its report, instances of serious lapses on the part of the Government Hospitals and private nursing homes in the matter of management of biomedical wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The 112th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2003-04) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests has, *inter-alia* observed that the scientific management of medical wastes is dangerously neglected in the country. The staff charged with the responsibility for sanitation, cleanliness in hospitals and other medical units seem to be ignorant of the regulation for bio-medical wastes disposal. The Committee recommended that persons in charge in small and big nursing homes and hospitals need to be trained regarding these aspects.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has informed that Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards conduct training courses and workshops for personnel of Healthcare Establishments and other concerned Departments. Central Pollution Control Board has also conducted two workshops at Hyderabad in assoication with Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board and also one each at Delhi and Lucknow. The Central Pollution Control Board also has funded the State Pollution Control Boards of Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh along with the required technical support to conduct workships on hospitals wastes management. The Ministry of Environment & Forests/ Central Pollution Control Board also supports training and awareness programmes conducted by NGOs, State Pollution Control Boards and other organisation with regard to the implementation of Bio-Medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998.

Sick public sector companies

†74. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector companies earning profit alongwith the number of sick ones;

(b) since when these companies are lying sick and the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) Government's policy regarding such sick companies?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.